

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

July 21, 2020

**Use of Parks and Libraries as Alternate Places of Learning for the 2020-2021 School Year**

As of July 14th, there are 140,307 positive cases of COVID-19 across LA County and a total of 3,894 deaths. Given the fact that our plans to reopen all sectors, including schools, have been met with immense challenges, it is necessary to find solutions to help foster our full economic recovery. Schools are tasked to plan for the unknown with the school year just weeks away. The two largest school districts in the county, Los Angeles Unified and Long Beach Unified, recently announced they will be offering online learning exclusively when students 'return to school' beginning in August 18th. Whether other school districts offer a full online or hybrid model, some distance learning will transpire.

This pandemic has caused many industries to rethink their current model and schools are no exception. School districts are working diligently to create a learning plan for all students, with respect to all state and local guidance. Despite their best efforts, we anticipate a gap between what schools can provide and what families may need, both for internet and technology and alternate learning environments for children. Even in the

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midst of these turbulent times, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has developed and implemented a Summer Camp program, with support from the Department of Public Health, to help working parents integrate back in to the workplace by providing safe options for children at full or half-day camps in parks. DPR has managed to operate successful summer programming while adhering to Public Health safety protocols. LA County Library has been supporting youth with online homework support, reading activities, and grab and go summer lunches, while recently exploring additional options for student and parental support utilizing community rooms and outdoor spaces that also ensure safety protocols. In partnership with the local unincorporated school districts, the County can continue the successful summer and virtual programming into the fall semester to help facilitate a safe learning environment for our students this school year, while prioritizing our most vulnerable students including those experiencing homelessness, English Language Learners, Foster Youth and those from low-income households.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Parks and Recreation, in coordination with Public Library, Internal Services Department and LACOE, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel and Public Health, to report back to the Board in thirty days with a plan to provide appropriate staffing, supervision and supplemental programming at County sites to provide children in the unincorporated County with alternative learning environments during the period of online schooling, by doing the following:

1. Instruct Directors of Parks and Recreation, Public Library, and Internal Services, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and other

school district superintendents with schools in the unincorporated Los Angeles County to gather information regarding opportunities for support in the following areas:

- a. An assessment of the partnering school districts' instruction plans and the level of assistance DPR and Public Library can provide to students in need of an alternative learning environment;
  - b. Obtain information from the partnering school districts as to how many students lack the necessary portable technology and/or internet connectivity needed to complete the educational requirements for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year; and
  - c. Develop programming schedules, building on DPR's summer camp program for students and families at County sites.
2. Instruct Directors at Parks and Recreation and Public Library to evaluate current staffing models for summer and fall, and possibly the remainder of the school year, as well as for after-school programs to make the necessary adjustments in hiring or extending contracts for current temporary/seasonal employees to meet demand of expected need once the school year starts; and conduct an assessment on the space capacity at DPR and Public Library facilities to accommodate students in accordance with State and Los Angeles County Public Health summer camps protocols;
3. Instruct the Directors of Parks and Recreation, Public Library, and Internal Services to ensure an online reservation system can be used for purposes of registration for this programing;

4. Instruct the Director of Internal Services to scan potential DPR and Public Library sites to assess whether current technological infrastructure is sufficient for programming objectives and, if not, make recommendations to enhance as needed;
5. Instruct Directors of Parks and Recreation and Public Library to consult with the Department of Public Health to ensure all proposed plans can be safely implemented according to state and local guidelines with respect to:
  - a. Personal protective equipment;
  - b. Wellness program;
  - c. Physical distancing;
  - d. Optimal ventilation when indoors;
  - e. Access to hand washing;
  - f. Maintenance, cleaning, disinfection and sanitation protocols for restrooms and high use areas; and
  - g. Any other necessary considerations made by Department of Public Health;
6. Instruct the Chief Executive Office, and Directors of Parks and Recreation, Library and Internal Services, to present a funding plan, including but not limited to funding opportunities from participating School Districts, philanthropy/donations, CARES ACT funding, cost recovery model, or other funding mechanism, to implement alternative learning sites at DPR and Public Library sites.

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